

Get Involved

The public comment period will close 10 days after this citizen information meeting (Jan. 25, 2010). VDOT representatives will review and evaluate any information received as a result of the citizen information meeting.

Subject to the availability of funding, acquisition of right of way and relocation of utilities is expected to begin in 2010, and construction on the project could begin in 2011.

Construction is anticipated to take approximately 24 months to complete. During this period, lane closures and detours are expected. Vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access to properties and businesses will be maintained at all times.

Project information shared here is available for review after the citizen information meeting at VDOT's Salem District Office located at 731 Harrison Ave., Salem, VA 24153, or at the City of Roanoke's Public Works Service Center located at 1802 Courtland Road, N.E., Roanoke, VA 24012.

Comments can also be submitted in writing to saleminfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Information must be postmarked, e-mailed or delivered to VDOT within 10 calendar days of today's meeting (Jan. 25, 2010) in order to be included in the citizen information meeting record.

Contact Information

Primary Contact: Phil Hammack, P.E.	Preliminary Engineering Manager	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5320
Lori Snider	Salem District Right of Way Manager	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5366
VDOT	Salem District Office of Civil Rights	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5552
VDOT	Salem District Office of Public Affairs	731 Harrison Ave. Salem, VA 24153	540-387-5493



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Saleminfo@VDOT.Virginia.gov

Citizen Information Meeting
I-581/Elm Avenue Interchange Improvements
City of Roanoke
Thursday, January 14, 2010, 5-7 p.m.
Roanoke Civic Center – Roanoke Special Events Center, Pre-Function Area
710 Williamson Road
Roanoke, VA 24016

Citizen Information Meeting

Welcome to the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) citizen information meeting on proposed improvements to the I-581/Elm Avenue interchange in Roanoke.

This citizen information meeting is being held to provide an opportunity for citizens or organizations to give VDOT comments and/or suggestions on the proposed project. VDOT strives to ensure that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation projects and programs affecting them. VDOT representatives are present to discuss the project and answer your questions.

A comment sheet is included in the handouts for this meeting, and your input is encouraged. All oral and written comments received on this project will be reviewed by VDOT personnel and will be available for review by citizens and other interested parties.

VDOT staff will evaluate questions and concerns raised as a result of this meeting before advancing the project to advertisement.

Project Overview



I-581/Elm Avenue Interchange

Cost – \$19.6 million
Purpose – To relieve congestion along Elm Avenue and at the northbound and southbound off ramps which back up onto I-581. Also, to improve the existing substandard vertical clearance of the Elm Avenue bridge over I-581.
From – Williamson Road
To – 0.057 mile east of Elm Avenue, S.E. on Elm Avenue
Total length – 0.2 mile
Improvements – Elm Avenue bridge widening and roadway improvements

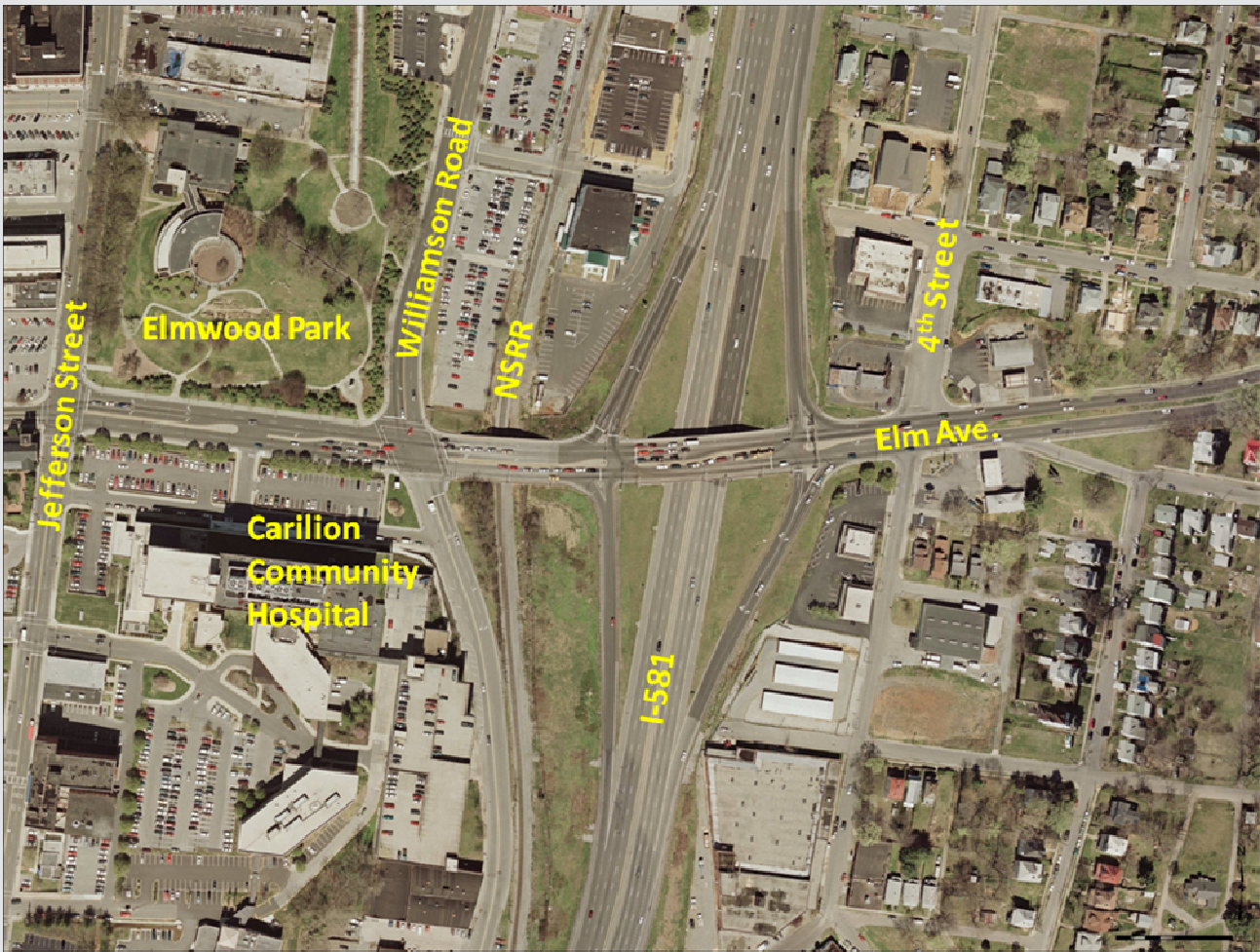
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is located at the interchange of Elm Avenue with I-581 in Roanoke. The purpose of this project is to relieve congestion along Elm Avenue and at the intersections of Elm Avenue with the northbound and southbound off ramps from I-581. This will be accomplished by the addition of one lane to both off ramps from I-581 and extending the left turn lane in each direction on Elm Avenue.

Extending the left turn lanes will require the widening of two bridges on Elm Avenue: the bridge over I-581 and the bridge over the Norfolk and Southern Railroad tracks. The existing substandard vertical clearance over I-581 will be addressed as part of this project.

- Proposed work would include:
- Widening Elm Avenue and the ramps leading from I-581 onto Elm Avenue
 - Widening and repairing bridge substructure and superstructure
 - Constructing any retaining walls required for bridge structures and ramps
 - Acquiring right of way
 - Relocating utilities within the project limits
 - Milling and overlaying existing pavement
 - Updating traffic signals and lighting
 - Installing signs and pavement markings
 - Installing drainage structures
 - Developing stormwater management facilities
 - Providing traffic and sequencing construction
 - Installing erosion and sediment controls

Project Graphic



Estimated Project Cost

2009 Total Cost:
\$19.6 million
Engineering of Bridge and Roadway Plans:
\$1.4 million
Right of Way Acquisition, Relocation Assistance and Utility Relocation:
\$600,000
Construction:
\$17.6 million

This cost is subject to change because development of the project is in early design stages. The project will be financed using federal funds.

Civil Rights

Representatives from VDOT are present to discuss the project and answer your questions. It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Right of Way

Displays at this meeting show the extent of right of way that may be needed as the project is currently proposed. As the design is further developed, additional easements and right of way may be required beyond what is shown in the preliminary plans. Property owners will be informed of the exact location of the easements during the right of way acquisition process and prior to construction.

Information about right of way purchase is discussed in VDOT's brochure, "Right of Way and Utilities: A Guide for Property Owners and Tenants." Copies of this brochure are available here from a VDOT right of way agent.

Anticipated Schedule

The following schedule has been proposed:
Citizen Information Meeting and comment period – January 2010
Request for design-build proposals – Spring 2010*
Right of Way & Construction – 2010 to 2013*

* The prject is not currently funded for right of way or construction. The schedule is subject to receipt of additional funding.

Environmental Review

VDOT's Salem District Environmental Office has performed environmental reviews and coordination to obtain information about environmental resources in the project vicinity and to identify opportunities for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential environmental impacts.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is applicable to this project and a NEPA document (Programmatic Categorical Exclusion) has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and in accordance with federal guidelines. The NEPA document includes information from various technical reviews including those related to natural resources, water quality, threatened and endangered species, air quality, noise, etc. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is also provided in the environmental documentation.

Environmental review and approval processes will continue throughout project development; and all required environmental clearances will be obtained prior to commencement of construction. Strict compliance with all environmental conditions and commitments resulting from regulatory approvals, and implementation of VDOT's specifications and standard best management practices will protect the environment during construction.

The NEPA document and the results of other environmental studies are available at today's meeting. Representatives from VDOT's Environmental Section are available to discuss this information and to answer questions.